

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (withdrawn) A method to use a tire hanger with a vehicle hoist to support a vehicle tire, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger having a first end and a second end with a hook, the method comprising:

engaging the first end configured to attach with the horizontal member to the

horizontal member whereby the hook is disposed upwards;

moving the tire hanger along the horizontal member until the hook is adjacent to the mounted tire;

removing the mounted tire from the vehicle, and

positioning the tire to engage the hook through the axel hole of the tire to hold the tire.

13. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein the first end is substantially U-shaped to extend around and secure the tire hanger in place to the horizontal member and the hook is substantially the same height as the axel of the vehicle.

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein the tire hanger has an elongated middle section to extend the position of the hook from the horizontal member.

15. (withdrawn) A method to use a tire hanger with a vehicle hoist to support a vehicle tire, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger having a first end, a middle section with a pivotable joint, and a second end with a hook, the method comprising:

25315

CUSTOMER NUMBER

- 2 -

HICK-1-1002ROA9

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM ^{PLLC}



701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

engaging the first end configured to attach with the horizontal member to the horizontal member;
pivoting the middle section until the hook is disposed upwards;
securing the middle section;
moving the tire hanger along the horizontal member until the hook is adjacent to the mounted tire;
removing the mounted tire from the vehicle, and
positioning the tire to engage the hook through the axel hole of the tire to hold the tire.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the first end is substantially U-shaped to extend around and secure the tire hanger in place to the horizontal member and the hook is substantially the same height as the axel of the vehicle.
17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the pivotable joint is rotatable about a single axis or multiple axes to position the tire in a variety of locations relative to the hoist and vehicle and is secured using a bearing assembly, a pin, and a frictional locking device.
18. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the pivotable joint is rotated with a wrap hinge.
19. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the tire hanger has an elongated middle section to extend the position of the hook from the horizontal member.
20. (withdrawn) A method to use a tire hanger with a vehicle hoist to support a vehicle tire, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger having a first

end, a middle section with a pivotable joint, and a second end with a hook, the method comprising:

a means for securing the first end to the horizontal member;

a means for pivoting and locking the middle section until the hook is disposed upwards;

moving the tire hanger along the horizontal member until the hook is adjacent to the mounted tire;

removing the mounted tire from the vehicle, and

positioning the tire to engage the hook through the axle hole of the tire,

whereby the hook holds the vehicle tire at approximately the same height as the axel of the vehicle.

21-25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A tire hanger comprising:

a device configured to removably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the device having

a first end arranged to be mounted by at least partially circumscribing the horizontal support member without the need for fasteners;

a second end having a hook configuration to engage a wheel; and

a middle section disposed between the first end and the second end, the middle section having a length suitable for engaging the hook configuration with the wheel, the middle section extending from the first end at an angle such that when the hook configuration engages a wheel, the middle section contacts at least a portion of the wheel;

wherein a weight bearing upon the second end is conveyed through the middle section to the first end to secure the first end on the horizontal support member.

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) The tire hanger of Claim 26, wherein the middle section includes two portions connected by a pivotable joint formed from overlapping parts.

30. (currently amended) A tire hanger comprising:

a device configured to remov[e]ably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the device having

a first end arranged to be mounted by at least partially circumscribing the horizontal support member without the need for fasteners;

a second end having a hook configuration to engage a wheel; and

a middle section disposed between the first end and the second end, the

middle section including two portions connected by having a pivotable joint ~~formed from overlapping parts~~, the middle section having a length suitable for engaging the hook configuration with the wheel, the middle section extending from the first end at an angle such that when the hook configuration engages a wheel, the middle section contacts at least a portion of the wheel;

wherein a weight bearing upon the second end is conveyed through the middle section to the first end to secure the first end on the horizontal support member.

31-47. (cancelled)

48. (previously presented) The tire hanger of claim 26, wherein the first end is in the form of a U-shape.

49. (cancelled)

50. (previously presented) The tire hanger of claim 26, wherein the device is constructed from a rigid material.

51. (previously presented) The tire hanger of claim 30, wherein the first end is in the form of a U-shape.

52. (cancelled)

53. (previously presented) The tire hanger of claim 30, wherein the device is constructed from a rigid material.

54. (currently amended) A tire hanger comprising:

a first end, the first end being a U-shape with a horizontal top portion, a vertical rear portion, and a horizontal bottom portion, the U-shape defining a recess adapted to removably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist without fasteners; and

a second end, the second end connected to the first end, the second end having a hook configuration and a sufficient length for engaging a wheel; and

a middle section connecting the first end to the second end, the middle section extending from the first end at an angle such that when the hook configuration engages a wheel, the hook configuration biases the wheel against the middle section;

wherein a weight bearing on the hook configuration is conveyed to the first end to secure the first end to the horizontal support member of the vehicle hoist.

55. (previously presented) The tire hanger of claim 54, wherein the second end overlaps and is pivotably connected to the first end.

56. (cancelled)

25315

CUSTOMER NUMBER

- 6 -

HICK-1-1002ROA9

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM ^{PLC}



701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

57. (previously presented) The tire hanger of claim 54, wherein the first end and second end are constructed from a rigid material.

58. (currently amended) A tire hanger comprising:

a hoist wrap section having an open end arranged to removably engage with at least three sides of a rectangular horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist;

a tire hanging section arranged to engage a wheel; and

a middle section disposed between the hoist wrap section and the tire hanging section, the middle section extending from the hoist wrap section at an angle between 5° and 85°,

whereby the hoist wrap section is shaped so as to contact and slidably engage the at least three sides of the rectangular horizontal support member.

59. (New) The hanger of Claim 58, wherein the angle is between 15° and 75°.

60. (New) The hanger of Claim 58, wherein the tire hanging section is a straight member of sufficient length to hold a tire.

61. (New) The hanger of Claim 58, wherein the middle section is angled such that when the tire hanging section is engaged to a wheel, the tire hanging section biases the wheel against the middle section.